

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth herein:

1. The Examiner has rejected to the abstract as containing language that is not clear and concise. Applicants have amended the abstract to remove the language "Disclosed is." The Examiner's approval thereof is respectfully requested.
2. The Examiner has objected to the title of the invention as not being descriptive. The title has been amended to: "Card Connector Having a Card Engaging Locking Mechanism." The Examiner's approval thereof is respectfully requested.
3. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nishimura (US Patent No. 6,398,567). With regard to claim 1, the Examiner stated that Figs. 1-3 and 10-16 of Nishimura discloses a card connector comprising an insulative housing 6 with a plurality of contacts 4 for receiving a card 1. A slider 10, 11 slidably mounted in the housing 6 capable of assuming an ejection position (Fig. 10) for ejecting the card 1 from the housing 6, and a card receiving position (Fig. 12) for receiving the card 1 in the housing 6. A lock member 16 held by the slider 10, 11 for engaging a cutout 17a on a lateral edge of the card 1 to lock the card 1 in the card receiving position (Fig. 12). The lock member 16 having a fixed end portion 20 fixed on the slider 10, 11. A positioning mechanism 18 for positioning the slider 10, 11 in the ejection position (Fig. 10) and the card receiving position (Fig. 12). A free end portion 15 being supported by a contacting a support surface (Fig. 13) of the housing 6 when in the card receiving

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position and being separated from the support surface when in the ejection position. A spring piece 29 with an engagement protrusion 31 for engaging the cutout 17a wherein the slider 10, 11 is in the ejection position the free end portion flexes to disengage the engagement with the cutout 17a of the card 1 by extraction of the card 1. When the slider 10, 11 is in the card receiving position (Fig. 12), the free end portion 15 elastically deforms while contacting the support surface (Fig. 13) to disengage the engagement with the cutout 17a by the forced extraction of the card 1. The Examiner, therefore, concluded that Nishimura anticipated claim 1.

Nishimura does not disclose all of the claim limitations of claim 1. Specifically, Nishimura does not disclose a card connector having a lock member held by a slider for engaging a cutout on a lateral edge of a card. Nishimura discloses in a first embodiment shown in Figures 1-9 a card connector that has a slider 10, 11 that receives a card 1. The slider 10, 11 has either a projection 17b or a recess 17a that engages a separate locking member 15. Nishimura further discloses in a second and third embodiment shown in Figures 10-16 a card connector that has a locking member 15 that engages a recess 17a on a card 1. The locking member 15 is not held by a slider. Because Nishimura does not teach a card connector having all of the claim limitations of claim 1, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is respectfully overcome.

Rejected claim 2 depends from independent claim 1. Because Nishimura fails to disclose all of the claim limitations of claim 1, dependent claim 2 is not anticipated by Nishimura. The rejection of claim 2 is, therefore, respectfully overcome.

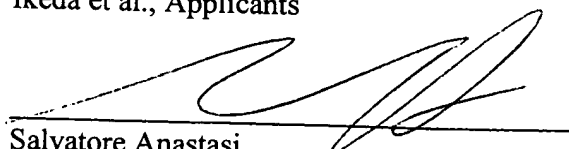
4. New claims 3-16 have been added to the Application. Claim 3 is considered to be in condition for allowance because it depends from independent claim 1, which is considered to be in condition for allowance. Claims 4-16 are considered to be in condition for allowance because the prior art fails to teach a card connector having an insulating housing having a plurality of contacts for receiving a card. The card connector having a slider with a lock member that engages the card, and a positioning mechanism that moves the lock member between a card release position and a card engagement position and secures the lock member in the card engagement position. The lock member having a portion that elastically deforms to disengage from the card when the lock member is secured in the card engagement position when the card is forcibly extracted. Examination thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments presented herein, Applicants believe this application to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees associated with this application to Deposit Order Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,

Ikeda et al., Applicants



Salvatore Anastasi
Registration No. 39,090
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Phone: 610-889-3699
Facsimile: 610-889-3696

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Abstract:

[Disclosed is a] A card connector having a lock member that engages with a card. It is constructed so that when a card is forcefully removed while in a locked state, neither the card nor the lock member is damaged. When a cutout of the card is engaged by the lock member, a free end portion of the lock member is positioned by a support surface of a housing, thereby preventing outward deformation thereof. If a force is applied to forcefully pull out the card while in this state, an engagement surface of the lock member is pushed by the cutout so that an engagement protrusion elastically deforms in a twisting manner, causing the engagement of the cutout therewith to be released.

Title:

Card Connector Having a Card Engaging Locking Mechanism

Claims:

Add claims 3-16.